

## **Herbal Medicine and Economic Prospective Development in Nepal: A Review**

**Sanju Kumar Singh**

Nepal Commerce Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

Email: singhsanju44@gmail.com

### **ABSTRACT**

Between two Asian giant countries Indian and China, Nepal has own unique and diversity geographical location and biodiversity place of the world. Nepal's altitudinal starting from almost sea level (~70m) to top high of the world, climate difference, varied topography and abundant ecological habitats and offer rich flora and fauna life. Herbal medicinal plant is one the potential income sources in Nepali economy since long era, and increasing the demand of medicinal plant in the world market radically day by day. To harvest medicinal plant and its trade can be the big impact in economy of Nepal and local people livelihood.

**Key words:** herbal, economy impact, Nepal

### **INTRODUCTION**

Nepal is home to more than 59 culturally rich ethnic and indigenous groups. Many of them have their own medical practices handed them orally from generation to generation. As in the scholarly traditional medical systems, plants form the mainstay of the folk medicine. The folk medicine employs more number of the plants than the plants used in the scholarly medical systems. The prosperous biodiversity of the living organisms has thrived inside the country. The country is endowed with four physiographic zones; Lowlands, mid-hills, high mountains and high Himalayan range.

Some questions arise, such as how could be the herbal medicine impact to the local economy in the local inhabitant life? Herbal medicine can be the one of the best economic level changes in Nepali Economy.

Objectives of this review are to carry out research into the impact of herbal medicine source and production could be one of the main sources of the income of local inhabitant and Nepal Government. To investigate regarding possibility of herbal medicine availability in Nepal and its business market in all over the world. To know the different kind of medicinal plants which is usages since traditional and different folk systems.

Contributions of this article are to find the herbal medicinal plant economic promoting weakness way and try to find the best way of economic development ways. To make a contribution in the sector of medicinal plant future business market and ways of economic prospective development in Nepal and how to promote local resources through herbal medical product.

### **REVIEW RESULTS**

Nepal is an excellent repository of cultural heritage for diverse ethnic groups and it has a rich tradition of folk practices for utilization of wild plants (Manandhar, 1993). There exists more than 125 caste groups, and more than 123 different languages are Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and Tibetan (Shrestha *et al.*, 2001). Besides, a large number of species are in use in remote areas as folklore medicines. The rich cultural and biological diversity of Nepal, therefore, provides immense opportunities for carrying out ethno botanical studies (Baral and Kurmi, 2006; Rokaya *et al.*, 2010). A medicinal plant is any plant used in order to relieve, prevent or cure a disease or to alter physiological and pathological process or any plant employed as a source of drugs or their precursors. There is another term often associated with medicinal plant: aromatic plant. A plant with elevated level of volatile oil (called essential oil) is an aromatic plant. Essential oils in addition to being medicinal have immense economic value.

## Medical Plant Trade

Table 1. Value of medicinal plants, essential oils and plants (herbs) exported from Nepal by fiscal year 2003–2009 in NPR '000

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Medicinal plants (to overseas, excluding India)	13,478	23,078	21,147	47,066	82,589	758,307
Essential oils (to overseas, excluding India)	22,935	15,935	13,745	20,243	34,062	54,928
'Herbs' (to India)	91,500	132,400	133,500	105,600	147,400	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,913</b>	<b>171,413</b>	<b>168,392</b>	<b>172,909</b>	<b>264,051</b>	<b>813,235</b>

Source: Trade and Export Promotion Centre 2010

This table depicts the each fiscal year since (2003/2004 - 2008/2009) financial transaction is increasing rapidly. Trading medical plant overseas one of the main exporter countries is India. India alone traded compare to all of the overseas companies. It shows India is the one of the big and growing market for Nepali Medicinal plant. Even though Nepali Herbal has huge potential to western countries but need expand to market.

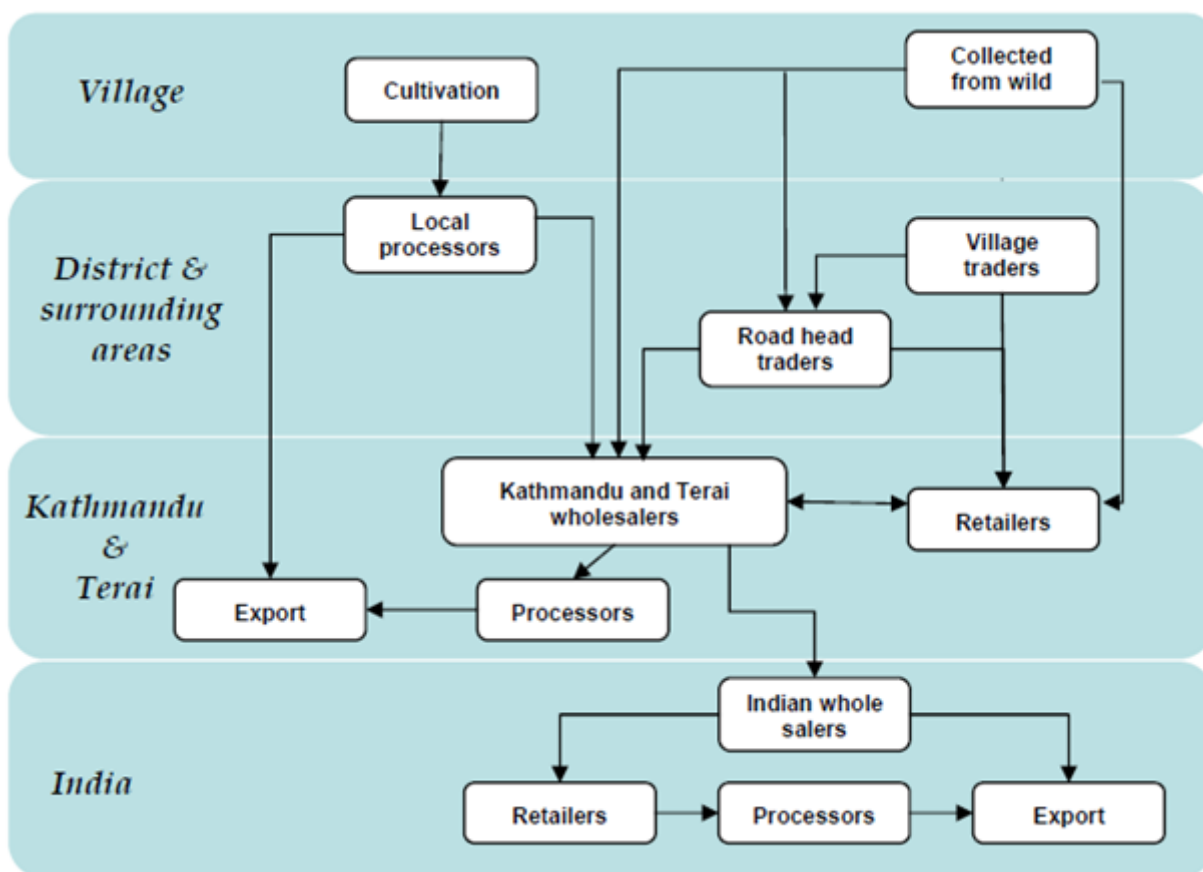
Table 2. Total Amount of MAP declared and royalties paid to the government (2002/03-04/05(DoF2006)

Fiscal year	Collected quantity (metric tonnes)	Royalties collected (million NPR)
2002/03	4,868	30,37
2003/04	2,857	15,99
2004/05	2,985	13,55

The table shows about the each and every fiscal year income increasing though herbal medicinal plant trading and its paid to royalties is increasing simultaneously. It shows Nepal has possibility to one of the economic growing source for financial income.

## Medicinal Plant Market Chain

From the medicinal plant harvesting to its final trade involves several stakeholders. The Major stakeholders are local collectors or harvesters, local cooperatives, road-head and airport traders, regional traders, exporters, big processors and manufacturers and retailers. They all have specific role to play.



. Figure 1. Medical plant market chart

## Bio prospecting

Searching, gathering and obtaining genetic materials from the biological resources usually present in the biodiversity rich country is Nepali and the pursuit of some economically useful products such as medicines constitute what is known as bio prospecting.

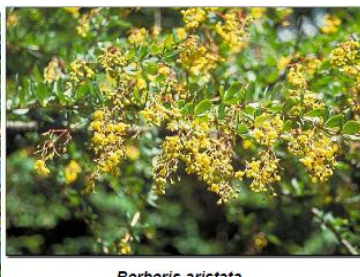


Figure 1. Rhododendron    Figure 2. *Berberis aristata*    Figure 3. *Bistorta affinis*

*Rhododendron campanulatum* D.Don (Chimal): Flowers are used in body ache and throat pain. *Berberis aristata* DC. (Gurung language: Karya) belongs to the family Berberidaceae. It is found in the sub-Himalayan tract at the altitude range of 850 to 2500 meter as well as at Nilgiri and Sri Lanka. Paste

of flower, leaves and bark is applied to cure edema. Furthermore, purified decoction of flower parts is used for eye diseases (conjunctivitis and other infections).

*Bistorta affinis* (D. Don) Green (Gurung language: Khaldi) belongs to the family of Polygonaceae. It is found in Afghanistan, the Himalayan region (Kashmir to Nepal) and Tibet at the altitude range of 3500 to 4800 meter. Pulverized or powdered root is boiled with water and is taken orally for the symptoms of cold and cough, tonsillitis and fever.

In addition, Nepal is the hub of medicinal plants for the whole world due its own bio-diversity and its geographical location. Nepal is least develop country and its need to grow their economy as soon as fast and the herbal medical plant is one the best alternative to grow their economy fast. Herbal Medicinal plantation also help to improve local inhabitant in local level it is one the best way using local resources and improving their livelihood. It is one the simple way to earn money without huge capital investment. In this world, the demand of herbal medicine is increasing day by day through medical companies and its one of the best income source for the harvesters.

## CONCLUSION

Nepali economy has huge potential economic way among them Herbal medicinal plantation is one of the best and safe way to economic growth. Even though this sector have challenge to improve radically such as using modern way to produce need to literate regarding herbal medicine plantation, give their plantation training then local inhabitants contribute in this sector and Government also has to take step as commercialization way then it can be one of the best way to help to grow economy.

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